

FOIL Request — Columbia County Records Access Officer

From: Joshua Powell <Josh@thepowellhousepress.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5:21 PM
To: Baccaro, Kelly <kelly.baccaro@columbiacountyny.gov>
Fwd To: [REDACTED]

March 3, 2026

Records Access Officer
Columbia County
401 Union Street
Hudson, NY 12534

Re: Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Request

Dear Ms. Baccaro:

Pursuant to the New York State Freedom of Information Law (Public Officers Law, Article 6, Sections 84–90), I hereby request access to and copies of the following records maintained by Columbia County:

I. Columbia County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board Records

All records, documents, and minutes of the Columbia County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board from January 1, 2022 through the present date (March 2026), including but not limited to:

- All meeting minutes, agendas, and transcripts of the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board;
- All resolutions, determinations, recommendations, and advisory opinions issued by the Board;
- All correspondence — including emails, letters, and memoranda — sent or received by the Board or its members in their official capacity;
- All records related to petitions, applications, reviews, or proceedings concerning the inclusion, exclusion, or modification of parcels within any agricultural district under the Board's jurisdiction.

II. Records Related to 509 Bashford Road and Agriculture District 10

All documents, records, and communications related to the inclusion of the property located at 509 Bashford Road, Chatham, NY in Columbia County Agriculture District 10, including but not limited to:

- Any petition, application, or request for the inclusion of 509 Bashford Road in Agriculture District 10, and all supporting documentation submitted therewith;
- All correspondence — including emails, letters, memoranda, and text messages — between any County official, board member, employee, attorney, or consultant and any party regarding the inclusion of 509 Bashford Road in Agriculture District 10;
- Any review, analysis, report, recommendation, or determination by the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, County Planning Department, or any other County body regarding said inclusion;
- All public hearing notices, public comments, testimony, and related records concerning the inclusion of 509 Bashford Road in Agriculture District 10;

- Any maps, surveys, parcel data, or land classification documents submitted, generated, or relied upon in connection with said inclusion;
- All resolutions, votes, or other actions taken by the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board and/or the Columbia County Board of Supervisors regarding the inclusion of 509 Bashford Road in Agriculture District 10.

III. Recusal Records — Supervisor Donal Collins and Supervisor Tim Ooms

All written records, documents, and communications related to the recusal of Columbia County Board of Supervisors members Donal Collins and Tim Ooms from any and all matters associated with the inclusion of 509 Bashford Road in Agriculture District 10, including but not limited to:

- Any formal recusal statements, declarations, or notices made by Supervisor Collins and/or Supervisor Ooms, whether oral (as reflected in meeting minutes, transcripts, or recordings) or in writing;
- All records documenting the reason or basis for the recusal of Supervisor Collins and Supervisor Ooms, including any stated conflicts of interest, financial relationships, or other grounds cited;
- All minutes, transcripts, audio recordings, and video recordings of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors meeting held on February 11, 2026, including any discussion, statements, or announcements regarding the recusal of Supervisor Collins and/or Supervisor Ooms;
- Any correspondence — including emails, letters, memoranda, and text messages — between Supervisor Collins, Supervisor Ooms, and any County official, board member, employee, attorney, or ethics body regarding their recusal or potential conflicts of interest related to 509 Bashford Road or Agriculture District 10;
- Any ethics opinions, advisory memoranda, complaints, referrals, or determinations issued by or filed with any County body concerning the participation or recusal of Supervisor Collins and/or Supervisor Ooms in matters related to 509 Bashford Road or Agriculture District 10;
- Any records reflecting prior participation by Supervisor Collins and/or Supervisor Ooms in deliberations, votes, or proceedings related to 509 Bashford Road or Agriculture District 10 before the February 11, 2026 recusal.

IV. General Provisions

This request covers the period from January 1, 2022 through the present date.

If any of the requested records are maintained in electronic format, I would prefer to receive them electronically (e.g., via email as PDF attachments). If only paper copies are available, I respectfully request that photocopies be provided.

As provided by the FOIL statute, I expect a response within five (5) business days of receipt of this request. If access to any of the requested records is denied in whole or in part, please provide a written explanation of the basis for the denial, including citation to the specific exemption(s) in Public Officers Law Section 87(2) upon which the denial relies, as well as the name and address of the person or body to whom an appeal may be directed.

If there are any fees associated with this request, please inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling the request. As provided under 21 NYCRR 1401.8, I understand that fees for photocopies shall not exceed twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page for standard-size copies.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to your timely response.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Powell (518) 567-8300